

## COG Chairs, Commission Meet

April 26, 2019

The annual meeting of the Tug Hill region's five Councils of Governments (COG) chairs with the Tug Hill Commission was held April 23 in Redfield. The informal get-together allows for sharing of information between the COGs and the commission, updates on continuing regional issues, and identification of new topics with the potential to affect the region and its communities.



Commission Executive Director Katie Malinowski and Board Chair Jan Bogdanowicz discussed development of the commission's 2020-2025 strategic plan, and asked for input on a set of questions that will be delivered to the region's local officials via Survey Monkey in May. All COG chairs received a copy of the commission's white paper, delivered to Albany in January, and reviewed the upcoming Tug Hill Residents and Landowners Survey, underway later this spring with the Center for Community Studies at JCC.

### In This Issue

- COG Chairs
- CTHC Meets
- CFA Opens
- Rockefeller Institute Presentation
- Amboy Tree Planting
- LGC Presentations Online
- Black River Watershed
- Local Government RMO Workshop
- THC to Meet
- Annual Highway School

Roger Tibbetts and Angie Kimball from the Cooperative Tug Hill Council reviewed topics to be discussed at CTHC's spring meeting, the status of wind projects in CTHC, and various projects underway in the council's 21-member area. Bob Sauer from the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments talked about NOCCOG's new brochure and upcoming GIS/GPS project. Rip Colesante and Paul Baxter from the North Shore Council of Governments gave updates on various water and sewer infrastructure projects in that area, and Bill Potter and Paul Baxter reviewed ongoing community projects in the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments area. Mickey Dietrich from the River Area Council of Governments provided updates on LED lighting, the new RACOG brochure, Black River recreation initiatives, and the expanded RACOG membership to four towns and three villages.

## CTHC Meeting Well Attended

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) held their spring meeting April 25 in Turin. Sixteen of the 21 CTHC municipalities were represented, as well as members of the Tug Hill Commission and guests, for a total of 47 people.

Following approval of the minutes and financial report, officers were elected: Roger Tibbetts returning as Chairman; Doug Dietrich as Vice Chairman; Carla Bauer as Secretary and Ian Klingbail, Steve Bernat and Paulette Skinner returning as Directors. After many years of service Director Rosalie White decided not to run again. With no nominations from the floor, the executive committee will look for a volunteer to fill the director vacancy.



Scheduled speaker attorney Mark Gebo was unable to attend, so the meeting moved to the Tug Hill Commission for project updates, including Low Volume Roads legislation, the commission's upcoming strategic plan update and an upcoming survey of local residents and landowners of the region.

In new business, 2019 work goals were approved as well as the updated and locally approved Boylston Special Areas map, which will now be added to the regional CTHC Special Areas map. The final item was that long-time Associate Circuit Rider Kay Chapman will retire by the end of 2019.

# 2019 Consolidated Funding Application Open May 1st

The 2019 REDC Guidebook and list of available resources will be accessible on May 1 at <http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/>, with a deadline of Friday, July 26 at 4 p.m. The CFA is available at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>. Grant opportunities of interest to Tug Hill communities include:

**New York Main Street Program:** Up to \$6.2 million to invest in projects that provide economic development and housing opportunities in downtown, mixed-use commercial districts. A primary goal of the program is to stimulate reinvestment and leverage additional funds to establish and sustain downtown and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

**Recreational Trails Program (RTP):** Up to \$1.9 million to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses.

**Environmental Protection Fund Grants Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage (EPF):** Up to \$19.5 million is available for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas.

**Local Government Efficiency Program:** Up to \$4 million to reduce the cost of operations and service delivery, thereby limiting growth in property taxes.

**Canalway Grants Program:** Up to \$1 million in competitive grants available to eligible municipalities, and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations along the New York State Canal System for canal related capital projects.

**Climate Smart Communities Grant Program:** Up to \$11.7 million for municipalities to perform inventories, assessments, and planning projects that advance their ability to address climate change at the local level and become certified Climate Smart Communities.

**Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program:** Up to \$70 million for local governments and not-for-profits to implement projects that directly address documented water quality impairments or protect a drinking water source.

**DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant Program:** Up to \$3 million to municipalities to help pay for the initial planning of eligible Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) water quality projects.

**Green Innovation Grant Program:** \$15 million for projects that improve water quality and implement green infrastructure in New York State.

Potential applications should attend a workshop! Sign up at <http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/resources>.

Central New York CFA Workshop - Syracuse	MVREDC 2019 CFA Round 9 Workshop #1	MVREDC 2019 CFA Round 9 Workshop #2	North Country CFA Workshop - Potsdam
May 28, 2019 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Onondaga Community College 4585 West Seneca Turnpike Syracuse, NY 13215	May 17, 2019 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM SUNY Polytechnic Institute 100 Seymour Road Utica, NY 13502	Jun 17, 2019 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Herkimer County Community College 100 Reservoir Rd Herkimer, NY 13350	May 30, 2019 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM SUNY Potsdam 44 Pierrepont Ave Potsdam, NY 13676

## Rockefeller Institute Presentation On-Line

Planning Director Phil Street's presentation on minimum maintenance roads at the Rockefeller Institute of Government in Albany is now available on-line. In the 15-minute video (<https://youtu.be/vOeXHO5M5Vo>), Phil introduces Tug Hill and the Tug Hill Commission, and reviews the *Protecting Town Roads from Snow Plowing Demands: A Checklist* issue paper.



# Amboy Arbor Day Tree Planting Party April 27

The town of Amboy was awarded a \$500 Arbor Day grant by the NYS Urban Forestry Council, to fund planting of a grove of eight trees to act as the starting location for their Nature Walk Trail. The grove will also offer an additional shade area for park visitors.

To celebrate the grant award, the town is holding an **Arbor Day Planting Party** on **Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the John Leemann Memorial Park**. This fun event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served at the park pavilion immediately after the short dedication ceremony. The park is located on Rt. 23 South (across from the Amboy Town Barn), close to the Rt. 69 intersection in Amboy Center. The park has a playground, special tot play area, basketball court, ball fields and pavilion with restrooms.

## LGC Presentations Available On-Line

If you were unable to attend the 2019 Local Government Conference, or if there were sessions in the same time slot that you had trouble choosing between, please go to the commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/services/training/local-government-conference/>. The following presentations are available as pdf's:

- 1C. Managing Land Use On Highway Corridors
- 1D. ZBA Basics
- 1E. Federally Mandated Reasonable Suspicion Training
- 1F. Records Management Essentials
- 2Ab. Northern Border Regional Commission Funding Opportunities
- 2D. Record Keeping Tips For Planning Boards & ZBAs
- 2F. Managing Inactive Records
- 3C. Regulating Short-term Rentals
- 4A. Making NY Count, How the 2020 Census Will Work

## Black River Watershed Conference 2019: Three Reasons to Attend

The Black River Watershed Conference on June 4 at the Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center in Brantingham includes a great lineup of speakers. Here is more information on three of them:

C. Eric Hellquist is an ecologist and Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at SUNY Oswego who works in aquatic and wetland ecosystems. His presentation, *The ecological cost of convenience: Plastic pollution along the shore and in the foodwebs of Lake Ontario*, is about his research focused on microplastics in the diet of preyfish and salmon as well as the deposition of macroplastics along the shoreline.

Dr. Dan Kelting, Adirondack Watershed Institute, spoke in 2017 on the effects of road salt in Adirondack waterways. He is now wrapping up a study of nearly 500 private drinking water wells in the Adirondacks that examined relationships between road runoff and water quality, primarily related to road salt. He will present those results in *Road Salt Pollution of Surface and Groundwater Resources in the Adirondack Region*.

John Wiley is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist focusing on the restoration of natural river processes and fish passage through the regulation of federally licensed hydropower projects in NY. His work in the Black River was recently featured in a special publication by the Department of Energy highlighting test cases for dealing with the large number of new licenses to be issued in the next decade, and will be presented in *Hydroelectric Projects in the Black River Basin: The process and opportunities for relicensing the third-most heavily developed watershed in the U.S.*

For more information and to register: <http://www.tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/black-river-watershed-conference/> or contact Jennifer Harvill at (315) 785-2392 or [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org).

# Your Role as Local Government RMO Workshop - May 2, Boonville

This is a **FREE workshop** presented by Michael Martin, New York State Archives Regional Advisory Officer for Central New York! The workshop will be held Thursday, May 2 from 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at the Boonville Village Hall, Route 12, Boonville, NY 13309. By law, each local government must have a Records Management Officer (RMO) who is responsible for managing its records management program. This workshop looks at the role and responsibilities of the RMO and will:

- Review the laws that established the role of RMO
- Identify the responsibilities of the RMO and others
- Discuss the attributes of a good records management program
- Provide tips for building a records management program and maintaining support over the long term
- Provide a forum for sharing strategies on maintaining support
- Review the services offered by the State Archives to organizations that want to establish a records management program

To register go to: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule/your-role-as-local-government-records-management-officer-2019-05-02>

## Contact Us

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

**The next meeting of the Tug Hill Commission will be  
Monday, May 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the  
Osceola Public Library, 2117 N Osceola Road, Camden, NY 13316.  
The public is welcome to attend.**

## Annual Highway School, June 3-5, Ithaca College

Registration is open for the local highway and public works training June 3-5 at Ithaca College. Co-sponsored by Cornell Local Roads Program & Association of Towns of the State of New York, the Highway School features general sessions on a variety of topics, including:

- Winter Maintenance & Snow Plowing
- Dealing with Water & Drainage
- The Relationship between the Board and Superintendent
- Local Roads Safety Plans
- Pavement Preservation
- Worker Safety
- Utilities in ROW
- CHIPS and other Funding Sources
- Legal Panel

Registration is available at: [https://members.nytowns.org/Towns/Training/2019%20Highway School Registration.aspx](https://members.nytowns.org/Towns/Training/2019%20Highway%20School%20Registration.aspx). Updates will be posted on the Cornell Local Roads Program Highway School Webpage at <https://www.clrp.cornell.edu/trainingevents/highwayschool.html>.